

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09884 061410Z

65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 061139Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6959

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9884

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, IN, IR

SUBJ: INDIAN PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO IRAN

REF: TEHRAN 6738

1. INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN DELHI LEADS US TO CONCUR WITH TEHRAN THAT PRESIDENT AHMED'S VISIT TO IRAN JUNE 26 THROUGH 30 WAS A SOOTHING BUT SUBSTANTIVELY UNPRODUCTIVE EXERCISE WHICH HAS LITTLE IMMEDIATE SIGNIFICANCE IN EITHER BILATERAL OR REGIONAL TERMS. UNLIKE ITS IRANIAN COUNTERPART, HOWEVER, THE INDIAN PRESS WENT TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO MAKE IT APPEAR OTHERWISE. DURING THE PERIOD OF THE VISIT THE DELHI NEWSPAPERS HEADLINED DETAILED REPORTS OF THE VARIOUS EVENTS IN TEHRAN, AND AT ITS CONCLUSION THE INDIAN EDITORIALISTS CLAIMED TO FIND "STRIKING" AND "ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT" THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS SHARE AN INTEREST IN REGIONAL COOPERATION AND THAT INDIA IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER JOINING IRAN IN AN ECONOMIC LINK-UP WITH PAKISTAN AND TURKEY.

2. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE GOI MAY HAVE DERIVED MOST
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SATISFACTION FROM THE OPPORTUNITY THE VISIT GAVE TO

PRESENT TO THE SHAH ITS EXPLANATION FOR THE RECENT FAVORABLE
TURN OF EVENTS IN SOUTH ASIA, ESPECIALLY THE INDO-PAK
PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION. ACCORDING TO THE SAMACHAR
ACCOUNT OF THE JUNE 26 BANQUET TOASTS, PRESIDENT AHMED
"DREW POINTED ATTENTION TO THE POSITIVE INITIATIVES TAKEN
BY INDIA FOR HAVING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE NEIGHBORING
COUNTRIES OF THE SUB-CONTINENT, INCLUDING PAKISTAN". THE
GOI HAS BEEN INTENT ON COUNTERING THE PAKISTANI VERSION
OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAS ISLAMABAD MAKING THESE
INITIATIVES (E.G. SEE THE FORMULATION IN MAY 28 CENTO
COMMUNIQUE WHICH IRAN AND THE OTHER FORU MEMBERS SIGNED),
AND EVIDENTLY USED PRESIDENT AHMED'S VISIT TO ADVANCE ITS
OWN EXPLANATION.
SAXBE

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